

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 10, and 15 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at paragraph [0010] of the Substitute Specification. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1225251 A2 ("Rigney"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 10, and 15 are patentable over Rigney at least because the reference fails to disclose or in any way suggest a spray powder in which "surfaces of the granules comprise micro-pores that produce low mass boundary zones where the granules contact each other," as set forth by applicants' claims. Similarly, the corresponding method limitation of independent claim 7, that of "forming micro-pores on surfaces of the granules to produce low mass boundary zones where the granules contact each other," is not found in Rigney.

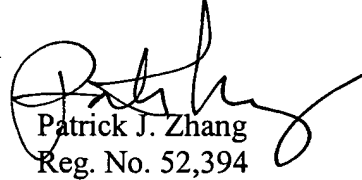
Therefore, at least because Rigney fails to disclose or suggest all the features of applicants' independent claims 1, 7, 10, and 15, these claims are patentable. Claims 2-6, 8, 9, and 11-14 are patentable at least because they depend from patentable claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request a formal notification thereof at an early date.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 273-8305 (direct dial).

Respectfully submitted,


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